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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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SUBJECT Italian Labor Recruits in Yugoslavia

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1. Beginning in February 1947, small groups of Italians were noticed arriving regularly in Zone A, Venezia Giulia. After a short stay in Zone A these groups crossed into Zone B. An investigation by the Udine Questura resulted in the establishment of the following facts:

- (a) Numerous emissaries, from Yugoslavia, in close collaboration with the political and workers organizations of Trieste (Unione Anti-Fascista Italo-Slovena, Comunista Giuliano, Sindacati Giuliani) are at present touring Italy and especially the areas of Puglia, Lucania, Basilicata, Sicily, Campania, Veneto, Friuli. They recruit workers, especially skilled ones, for work in Yugoslavia.
- (b) In order to be recruited one must be a member of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) or a member of one of the extreme left formations. The recruiting is being facilitated by the local Chamber of Labor, and in many cases by individuals of the local sections of the PCI.
- (c) Recruits enter Zone A by train, if in possession of the regular entry permit. Otherwise they cross the border line illegally through the woods.
- (d) When in Trieste, they report to the headquarters of the Sindacati Unici in Via Imbriani and Via Monfort, or to the Casa del Lavoratore Portuale located in Corso Cavour the headquarters of the Giulian Communist Party.
- (e) The above-mentioned organizations provide for the illegal crossing into Zone B, as follows: The recruits, guided by persons who know all the clandestine crossing points, reach Muggia (Zone A) by boat, then cross the nearby Morgan Line above Muggia. On the other side of the Morgan Line, they are collected by waiting trucks, which transport them to Susak in the Fiume area. There a delegation of the Sindacati Unici of Trieste deploys them in the various regions of Yugoslavia according to the requests for labor.

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2. It has been ascertained that about 1,000 Italians are at present in Ljubljana where they have their own Cultural Club (named for Paolo Morgan, a Triestine partisan killed in the war). 160 Italian students are reportedly studying at the Ljubljana University, taking advantage of numerous scholarships which, it is believed, are being offered by the Italian Communist Party. It is estimated that there are 200 Italians in Maribor, 150 in Jesenice, 100 in Kranj, 30 in Celje. Numerous Italian workers are employed by the Litostroj machine factory at San Vito near Ljubljana. Other Italian workers can be found in the coal mines of Kostolac (Serbia), at Banja-Luka (Bosnia), and at Maribor-Otok (Slovenia), where important hydroelectric plants are being built; at Belgrade, where they are working in a large machine factory; at Titograd, where they are employed in a large assembly plant where trucks of the Dodge type are being assembled, with material sent by UNRRA; at Skoplje (Macedonia); at Zagreb, in the shipyards of Kerka (Zibenik) and Split; in Pola where they work in the Scoglio Olivi shipyard, and in Fiume, in the torpedo factory.
3. The workers in Pola and Fiume, who went there with their families live rather comfortably in the apartments left vacant by the Italians who fled to Italy. The rest are living in barracks, under a rather strict and military discipline.
4. When the workers are hired in Italy, they are promised a good pay which would allow them to send back to their families about 30,000 lire a month, after expenses for quarters and food have been deducted. Actually, they are being paid in dinars which cannot be sent to Italy and with the high rate of exchange for Italian lire, expenses for food and quarters, dues for the various workers unions, etc. it is almost impossible to send money back to Italy.
5. In those areas where military works are being built, the workers are under police or Army supervision and control. The efficiency of these workers is usually low and criticism against them is open and frequent. The population in many instances looks upon them with disfavor.
6. Yugoslav authorities do not, as a general rule, allow workers to return to Italy unless there are very serious health reasons. Some workers succeeded in escaping toward Zone B and were arrested at Sesana by the Venezia Giulia police because of unauthorized entry into Zone A. Information concerning some of those recently arrested is as follows:
 - (a) Angelo Benes - Was sent to Sarajevo by the Sindacati Unici of Monfalcone last February.
 - (b) Luigi Colombi - Was sent to Fiume by the Sindacati Unici of Monfalcone and from there to Belgrade.
 - (c) Mario Venuti - He was sent to Yugoslavia by the P.C.I.
 - (d) Sabato Vitale - Was sent to Yugoslavia by the P.C.G.
 - (e) Lucia Posafiori - Was sent by the Sindacati Unici of Monfalcone to a soap factory at Sarajevo.

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- (f) Libero Juirisic - Sent by the Sindacati Unici to Belgrade and Spalato (Split), where he worked in a garage.
- (g) Giovanni Arcolli - Was sent to Sarajevo together with 40 other workers by the Sindacati Unici of Via Monfort.
- (h) Carlo Perino - Was sent to Yugoslavia by the Sindacati Unici of Via Monfort, together with 50 others.
- (i) Maria Furlan - Sent to Yugoslavia by the Comitato Gioventu Slovena of Goriano.

- 7. There is no evidence from the interrogation of the above-named that Italian battalions have been formed with Italian workers to fight on the Greek front. There are formations of volunteers, the so-called Eugenio Curjel Brigade, formed of young elements, which, however, are employed in the construction of special projects or railroads. All workers are undergoing intense Communist indoctrination.
- 8. A new police school has been formed in Buie (Istria) for Italian elements. It is rather a political school where Marxism is being taught by a certain Juric. Graduates will join the Difesa Popolare.

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